





## INFORMATION.

## A. S. WATSON &amp; CO., LIMITED

Established A.D. 1841.

## WINES AND SPIRITS.

ALL wines are selected by our London House brought direct from the vineyard in France and bottled by ourselves, thus saving all intermediate profits, and enabling us to supply the best goods at MODERATE PRICES.

PRICE LISTS, with full details, to be had on Application.

WINE after removal should be rested a month before use. When required for drinking at once it should be ordered to be decanted at the Dispensary before being sent out.

**REMY**—Excellent Dinner and After Dinner Wines of very superior Vintages. All are from French Vines.

**CHATEAU**—Our Chateau including the lowest prices, are guaranteed to be the genuine product of the vine of the grape and are not artificially made from raisins and chemicals, as is generally the case with cheap wines.

**BRANDY**—All our Brandy is guaranteed to be pure Cognac, the difference in price being merely a question of age and vintage.

**WHISKY**—All our Whisky is of excellent quality and of greater age than most brands in the market. The Scotch Whisky marked "B" is universally popular, and is pronounced by the best local connoisseurs to be superior to any other brand in the Hongkong market.

We only guarantee our Wines and Spirits to be genuine when bought direct from us in the Colony or from our authorized Agents at the Coast Ports.

## A. S. WATSON &amp; CO., LIMITED.

HONGKONG, 10th January, 1895.

## THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.  
Only communications relating to the above Dispensary should be addressed to "The Editor," Correspondence intended to forward their name and address with communications addressed to the Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.  
We do not accept communications that have appeared in other papers, and will not be inserted before 11 a.m. on the day of publication. After that hour the supply is limited. Only supplied for cash.

Telegraphic Address Press.  
P. O. Box 29. Telephone No. 19.

HONGKONG, MAY 1st, 1903.

The situation in the Far East has, in the past week, through the reports which reach us through Reuters' agency, been reliable. It is true that the position has not greatly changed, but the danger of collision appears to have grown. The dissonant Powers (Russia, France, and Germany) have protested against the terms of peace exacted from China, as far as they relate to the cessation of territory, and the Japanese Government are reported to have replied that, in the present excited state of public opinion in their country they practically dare not moderate those terms, as to do so might lead to a rebellion. And this, we believe, is no idle fear. The war spirit has been deeply rooted in Japan, and the patriotic feeling of the people would be up in arms at any attempt to deprive them of what they consider the rightful fruits of their well-earned victories. Blatant and encouraged by their successes on sea and land, the Japanese feel a confidence in their strength and resources which may be exaggerated but is quite natural and understandable. That confidence may even impel them to bid defiance to the protesting Powers, if they have to choose between civil strife and foreign war. Great as is the might of Russia, the Japanese Government might prefer to lose her before the completion of the Trans-Siberian Railway, while she is practically cut off from her base in Europe, rather than have to reckon with an angry nation disappointed in their dreams of conquest and left with nothing but the barren husks of the prizes they had reckoned on enjoying. Meantime the MIKADO has ratified the Treaty, and it now only awaits the signature of the Emperor Kwame Su to complete the settlement between the two nations. As we intimated in a former article, there is always this difficulty about the Treaty—the Chinese Government may, at the last moment, refuse to ratify the act of their Emperors on some plea or other, and the protest of the three Western Powers would be a serious complication. The prospects of a complication are, therefore, it will be seen, considerably increased by the action of some of the neutral Governments. The presence of so large a Russian fleet in these waters must, moreover, acquire a sinister significance both to China and Japan in the presence of her strongly worded remonstrance against the occupation by the latter of any Chinese territory on the mainland. It is true it is stated that the protest is a friendly one, but the gathering of a large naval force, and the dispatch of reinforcements to the garrisons in Siberia, are not too reassuring to the Japanese, mind of strictly pacific intentions on the part of Russia.

the insular kingdom to acquire a foothold on the mainland, but France apparently entertains as strong an objection to Japan securing Formosa as an addition to her island chain. Is it not, however, quite possible that both objections might be dissolved by the application of some remedy? Russia covets a port on the Pacific that would remain open to navigation during the icy months of winter. She also desires some further rectification of her frontier, the better to secure her new railway. Surely it is not beyond the resources of diplomacy to provide for both these aspirations. The British Government would be perfectly willing to see them gratified; that very dear friend the French Republic would not be disposed to cavil, and Germany would feel constrained to follow suit and give her sanction to the necessary appropriation from the territory of China. With Russia thus securely seated as a great Power on the Pacific coast and Japan in possession of Port Arthur, Formosa, and the Pescadores, with China reduced to an invertebrate and therefore dangerous condition, Great Britain would find it essential for the protection of her vast commerce in the Far East to have a naval station to the north of Hongkong and within easy reach of Shanghai. She should therefore negotiate for the cession of Chusan and dependencies. That island has already twice been in her possession, and now the need for it as a naval station has become urgent no false scruples should be allowed to stand in the way of its acquisition by purchase. China should at the same time be asked to cede so much of the adjoining peninsula of Kiangsu as will enable us to provide adequately for the protection of Hongkong and the suppression of piracy in Kowloon city, which does so much to ruin and demoralize the Chinese servants and workmen of this city. No doubt our French friends would be ready to exclaim and protest against these trifling territorial concessions, but they have their own little bill against China, which might be settled at the same time, and all parties be thus satisfied. The incursions of Chinese soldiers into Tonkin, where they engage in acts of brigandage of an intolerable kind, ought to be put a stop to for the future and past offences atoned for. How this can be best accomplished it is for French officials to suggest, but it is idle for the Chinese Government to decline responsibility or to plead inability to prevent recurrence of such acts. The soldiers have hitherto been encouraged to go in search of loot in Tonkin in compensation for arrears of pay. Now is the time for the squaring up of accounts with China, who has so long evaded her obligations with unblinking impunity, and it would be only her justice that, to prevent further complications, she should be made to assist by timely contribution in the amicable settlement of questions growing out of the terms of the Treaty of Peace which, if left to smoulder, may by and by break into a conflagration.

The crisis in the Far East has arrived, and where are the reinforcements to the British Squadron? This is the question every observer is asking, as we asked it some time ago in this column. We may have unbounded faith in the honor and honesty of the Russian Government; we may be convinced that Japan has no ulterior object to seek behind her avowed aims; we may be satisfied that the French rose up in proportion to the degree they abuse us; we may be glad to believe that the kindly affection of the Teuton is great enough to rise superior to any temptation to profit by our perplexities or loss; and we may rest content after all in the maxim that "blood is thicker than water," and therefore that Brother Jonathan would come to our help if we hurried into a conflict with a European Power; and were getting the worst of it. But however satisfied we may feel on these heads, it would surely have been wiser to have retained for a few months longer the show of force the erratic Government of Lord ROSSMORE despatched out in such a hurry. The foreign policy of the present head of the Government was formerly regarded as safe and reliable, but disillusion has come in this respect as in others, and little confidence is now felt in the conduct of our foreign relations.

To-day Lieutenant-General BARRELL bids farewell to Hongkong after five years' service on the station. The gallant General during his residence amongst us has earned the good opinions of the entire community and will carry with him their best wishes. His connection with the colony has not been entirely of a military character, for at a somewhat critical period in its history he was called upon to administer the government, namely, from May to December, 1891, and again for a few weeks last year he acted as Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON'S *locum tenens* during the latter's visit to Japan. It will be remembered that when Sir WILLIAM DES VEAUX resigned the Government in 1891 the relations between the unofficial members of Council and the officials were somewhat strained, and the task lay before General BARRELL when he was sworn in as Acting Governor was not an easy one, but he accomplished it with eminent success, displaying firmness coupled with fairness and a determination to master the intricacies of every subject brought before him for his decision. Various important Ordinances were passed during his first administration, dealing with such diverse matters as the prohibition of three-bargaining in shares, the protection of women and girls, the regulation of the trade in raw and pressed opium, and the amendment of the Building and Merchant Shipping Ordinances. Although opinions were strongly divided on some of these measures all parties were well satisfied with the manner in which General BARRELL discharged his difficult duties as the head of the Government. More recently General BARRELL placed the colony under renewed obligations. When the plague broke out last year he took upon himself the very grave responsibility of sanctioning the employment of the men of the garrison in combatting it. In the late strike also he placed the services of volunteers from the garrison at the disposal of

the N. D. Company's extra steamer *Hobbs* to call at Singapore on Monday, the 29th ult., at 4 p.m., and to leave here on or about Monday, the 30th ult.

Now has been received from Nagasaki, says the *N. O. Daily News*, that the Japanese authorities have called upon some vessels of the Russian fleet to quit the port, probably in accordance with the agreement made that no more than two men-of-war of any one Power should stay in the harbor at one time, and that the Russians have refused to comply.

The *Engli-hoon* of Kobe gave a St. George's Ball on the 23rd April.

The Russian torpedo boats *Borgo*, *Orelvitz*, and *Rural* and the French cruiser *Duguay Trouin* left for the North yesterday.

An epidemic is reported to be raging amongst the horses and mules in Shantung province and thousands of them are said to have died from the disease.

The P. & O. steamer *Belinda*, with the *Bur* mail, left Singapore yesterday at 4 p.m., and is expected to arrive on Monday, the 5th inst.

The China Mutual steamship *Kaitum*, from Glasgow and Liverpool, passed the Canal yesterday afternoon, and may be considered the first of the season.

No fresh cases of plague were reported yesterday, but one of the patients previously reported to be suffering from the disease died. A party of police have been detailed for house-to-house visitation work.

A proclamation was issued yesterday by the Governor in Council under section of Ordinance No. 5 of 1895, prohibiting the importation of Chinese from the port of Swatow from 30th April until further notice, owing to plague being prevalent in the neighbourhood of that port.

On account of fire which broke out one of the boats of the *M. S. M. Steamer Melbourne*, she will be delayed in her departure from Hongkong, to make room for a party of guests, in token of their regard and appreciation of her many acts of kindness. The gift consisted of a silver tray, of Chinese workmanship, and a pair of silver shoes, with the inscription, "From a few friends in Hongkong." The presentation was made by Mrs. Goodson on behalf of the numerous contributors to the gift.

The Shanghai manager of the Straits Insurance Co., Limited, writes to the *N. O. Daily News*—A few letters have appeared in various papers regarding the case of the *Melbourne* steamer, which was damaged by fire, and to induce a London company to treat for the acquisition of the Straits Insurance Company, it may interest your readers to know that a telegram has been received from the head office of the Straits Insurance Co., Limited, that the directors of the Commercial Union Assurance Co., Limited, have resolved to withdraw from all negotiations having reference to the acquisition of the Straits Insurance Company, Limited.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial Hospital, writes to the *N. O. Daily News* with thanks the following donations to the funds of the hospital:

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Bank of China	25
Bank of India	25
Bank of Japan	25
Bank of Korea	25
Bank of Persia	25
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According to further particulars from French sources, the people are up in arms against the authorities, the disturbed districts being the prefectures of Tonkin, and the provinces of Annam and Laos. The French authorities are giving the people the option of leaving the country, or of remaining, in which case they will be treated as subjects of the French Republic. The French authorities are giving the people the option of leaving the country, or of remaining, in which case they will be treated as subjects of the French Republic.

The independent arrived at Hongkong on the 14th inst. The *Hongkong* of the following day, under the somewhat alarming heading "Students or Soldiers," published the following:—"The unexpected arrival of the *Hongkong* from Kobe, Japan, with 900 Japanese and 400 tons of freight, all for this port, created a vast amount of talk. Outside of those interested by very few had any knowledge that such a vessel was expected to arrive in a day, and that it was carrying so many troops."

From the *Chiao Chiao* of the 22nd inst. we learn that the Japanese fleet, which is being rapidly cleared by the Japanese, all guns and ammunition are taken away to Japan, and the Japanese are being rapidly cleared by the Japanese, all guns and ammunition are taken away to Japan.

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**THE FRENCH MAIL.**  
The M. M. steamer *Mancha*, with the French mail of the 29th March, leaves Hongkong, left-sailing on Tuesday, the 30th April, at 8 a.m., and may be expected here on or about Friday, the 3rd inst. This packet brings reports to letters despatched from Hongkong on the 30th February.

**THE ENGLISH MAIL.**  
The P. & O. steamer *Kohila*, with the English mail, left Singapore on the 30th April, at 4 p.m., and is expected to arrive on Monday, the 1st inst.

**THE GERMAN MAIL.**  
The N. D. L. steamer *Hohenzollern* left Singapore on the 29th inst. at 4 p.m., and is expected here on or about Monday, the 1st inst. The German mail of the 8th inst., left Colombo on Saturday, the 27th inst., and may be expected here on or about Wednesday, the 5th inst.

**THE AMERICAN MAIL.**  
The O. & C. steamer *Peru*, with the American mail, left San Francisco for this port via Yokohama and Nagasaki, on the 13th inst.

**MEMORANDUMS.**  
The China Mail steamer *Chingoo*, from Glasgow and Liverpool, passed the Canal on the 13th inst., and may be considered due at Singapore on Tuesday, the 4th inst.  
The D. D. B. steamer *Krimhild* from Hamburg, left Singapore for this port on the 26th inst., and may be expected here on or about the 2nd inst.  
The steamer *Eton* left Singapore on the 25th inst., and is due here on or about the 3rd inst.  
The N. Y. K. chartered steamer *Angers* left Bombay on the 12th inst., and may be expected here on or about the 4th inst.  
The P. & O. steamer *Shanghai* left Singapore for this port on Wednesday, the 24th inst., at 4 p.m.  
The P. & O. steamer *Brindisi* left Singapore for this port on Thursday, the 25th inst., at 6 p.m.  
The N. P. steamer *Sikh* sailed on Wednesday, the 24th inst., from Taormina for Hongkong via Japan ports.  
The P. & O. steamer *Formosa* left London for this port on the 4th inst.  
The P. & O. steamer *Java* left London for this port on the 14th inst.  
The China Mail steamer *Kaisa*, from Glasgow and Liverpool, passed the Canal on the afternoon of the 30th April, and may be considered due at Penang on or about the 16th inst.

**POST-OFFICE NOTICES.**  
The Postal Guide for 1895, revised to date will be found in *Amoy and Directory*, p. xx. This is the only authorised complete Summary of Postal information published in Hongkong.  
The authorised List of Mails issued in connection with this paper is the one published twice each day in our Extra, which is corrected to a much later hour than that given before.

**FOR SWATOW AND BANGKOK.**—*Per Continental*, to-day, the 1st inst., at 10.30 A.M.  
—*For Sandakan and Kudat.*—*Per Memmo*, to-day, the 1st inst., at 3.30 P.M.  
—*For Manila.*—*Per Sanglung*, to-day, the 1st inst., at 3.30 P.M.  
—*For Singapore and Mauritius.*—*Per Nanking*, to-day, the 1st inst., at 3.30 P.M.  
—*For Thursday* (left Coddin, Townsville, Brisbane, Sydney, and Melbourne).—*Per Ching*, to-day, the 1st inst., at 3.30 P.M.  
—*For Swatow and Shanghai.*—*Per Canton*, to-day, the 1st inst., at 3.30 P.M.  
—*For Hongkong and Amoy.*—*Per Siaam*, to-day, the 1st inst., at 4.30 P.M.  
—*For Hoilow and Pakhal.*—*Per Freja*, to-day, the 1st inst., at 5.00 P.M.  
—*For Swatow, Amoy, and Foochow.*—*Per Kowloon*, to-day, the 2nd inst., at 8.30 A.M.  
—*For Straits and Bombay.*—*Per Bormida*, to-morrow, the 2nd inst., at 11.30 A.M.  
—*For Singapore, Penang and Calcutta.*—*Per Catherine*, to-day, Friday, the 3rd inst., at 5.30 P.M.

**FOR SHANGHAI, KOBE, YOKOHAMA, VICTORIA, AND TAOSAM.**—*Per Victoria*, on Saturday, the 4th inst., at 11.30 A.M.  
—*For Amoy and Hongkong.*—*Per Brindisi*, to-day, the 1st inst., at 11.30 A.M.  
—*For Yokohama and Kobe.*—*Per Bugaid*, on Monday, the 9th inst., at 3.30 P.M.  
—*For Kobe.*—*Per Straits of Dover*, on Wednesday, the 11th inst., at 3.30 P.M.  
—*For Nagasaki, Kobe and Yokohama.*—*Per Ancone*, on Friday, the 10th inst., at 5.40 P.M.

**MAILS BY THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY CO.'S PACKET.**  
The Canadian Mail Packet *Empress of India* will be despatched on WEDNESDAY, the 1st May, with Mails for Shanghai, Japan, the United States, Canada, &c., which will be closed on Monday, the 30th April, at 10.00 A.M. Registry cases.  
11.00 A.M. Post Office closes, but correspondence may be posted on board the Packet with the usual rates, with the extra postage until time departure.

**MAILS BY THE FRENCH PACKET.**  
The French Contract Packet *Osus* will be despatched on MONDAY, the 3rd inst., at 11.15 A.M., with Mails for the United Kingdom, Europe, and places beyond, via Marseilles, Saigon, Straits Settlements, Batavia, Barmah, Ceylon, the Australian Colonies, Pondicherry, Tientsin, Shanghai, Aden, Mauritius, Egypt, Malta, and Gibraltar.  
The usual hours will be observed in closing the Mails, &c.

**HOURS OF CLOSING THE ENGLISH AND FRENCH MAILS.**  
When the Packets leave at Noon.  
The following hours will be observed in closing the mails for Europe, &c., by the English and French Packets, when they leave at Noon: The Money Order Office will be closed at 5 P.M. the day before.  
5.00 P.M.—Posting of Prices Current & Financial notices ceased.  
(Prices Current and Circulars may, however, be posted up to 10 o'clock if they are filed in bundles, &c., by counter, with the carriers, all one way).  
10.00 A.M.—Registry cases.  
10.30 A.M.—Posting of newspapers, books, and stationery ceased.  
11.00 A.M.—Mail close.  
LATE LETTERS may be posted (from 11 A.M.) with 10 cents late fee up to 11.30 A.M. after which hour they may be sent on board with the same late fee.

**MAILS BY THE BRITISH PACKET.**  
The British Contract Packet *Rosetta* will be despatched on THURSDAY, the 3rd inst., at 11.15 A.M., with Mails for the United Kingdom, Europe, and countries beyond, via Brindisi to the Straits Settlements, Netherlands India, Barmah, Ceylon, Aden, Egypt, Malta, and Gibraltar.  
The usual hours will be observed in closing the mails, &c.

**TO SHIPMASTERS.**  
**STEAM WATER BOAT COMPANY.**  
THE Undersigned are prepared to Supply on Shortest Notice any quantity PURE FRESH FILTERED WATER, for both Dock and Bellers.  
The Water is Collected from HONGKONG exclusively supplying FILTER-D WATER.  
DESPATCH GUARANTEED. CALL FLAG W.  
J. W. KEW & CO.  
15, Prince Street.  
Hongkong 19th November, 1894. 123

**NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR DEBT.**  
Neither the CAPTAINS, the AGENTS, nor the OWNERS will be RESPONSIBLE for a DEBT contracted by the Officers or the Crew of the following Vessels during their stay at Hongkong Harbour:—  
ARANA, Brit. str. Brady—Doddwell, Cardiff.  
CATHERINE AFCEA, Brit. str. Olmsted—Bassoon, Sons & Co.  
DETROITALE, Brit. str. Cartier—Doddwell, Cardiff & Co.  
FORD, Brit. str. Stacey—Oden.  
JOHN B. B. str. Stacey—Gibb, Livingston & Co.  
KRIM, Nov. str. Igrena—Ed. Schallert.



